

Message

From: Kodama, Doug [Kodama.Doug@epa.gov]
Sent: 6/10/2020 7:03:18 PM
To: Evangelista, Pat [Evangelista.Pat@epa.gov]; Prince, John [Prince.John@epa.gov]; Wilson, Eric [Wilson.EricJ@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Plum Island Work from 2018
Attachments: EPA Observations Plum Island Writeup r3.docx; Further Options for Bldg 257 June 2020 r7.docx; Cover Letter for NYSDEC r1-NN.docx

Neil has another request involving ORD. LSASD has not been involved, and so far is unaware of this request, but we will inform them if we do proceed with the request. Basically looking for your recommendation on how to proceed. Dr Alan Woodard of NYSDEC is looking for a formal distribution of ORDs recommendations from 2018. ORD lays out various options for NYSDEC to consider. Let me know if you'd like to discuss with Neil, or have an email drafted to forward to the RA. The attached cover letter was originally meant for Neil's signature, but we can change to however you see fit. Neil's email below provides a good summary. thanks

Doug Kodama
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From: Norrell, Neil <Norrell.Neil@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 1:22 PM
To: Kodama, Doug <Kodama.Doug@epa.gov>
Subject: Plum Island Work from 2018

Hi Doug,

Sorry to hit you with more ORD stuff. This is regarding some work from back in 2018. And it is not COVID-19 related.

In 2018, Dr. Alan Woodard of NYSDEC reached out to Paul Lemieux, of ORD, and asked for help with a situation he was dealing with regarding the Plum Island Animal Disease Research Center (PIADC). Paul reached out to me since I worked with he and Dr. Woodard during the anthrax removal I performed in 2006 and because PIADC is located in Region 2. Dr. Woodard had requested some assistance with Building 257 of the facility and the possibility of anthrax being present. Though there is no evidence that indicates anthrax was ever housed or used in Building 257, there have always been rumors and public opinions that have suspected that it was. Dr. Woodard was asking for assistance in determining the possible persistence of anthrax in the environment for long periods of time and if we could assist him with developing possible sampling and decontamination options for Building 257.

In June 2018, Dr. Woodard, Paul and EPA reps from ORD and CMAD visited the facility to get a firsthand look at Building 257. I was not able to attend due to a medical issue. Based on that visit a document titled "EPA Observations on Plum Island Building 257" (attached) was generated. This document included a brief history, a description of the condition of Building 257 and a set of options for NYSDEC to consider regarding the sampling and/or decontamination of the building. There have been several revisions to the document and the current version (attached) is titled "Further Options for Sampling/Decontamination of Plum Island Building 257 for NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation".

PIADC is currently operated by DHS. They are in the process closing the entire facility and moving operations to a new location in Manhattan, Kansas.

Earlier this month Dr. Woodard reached out to Paul and requested that the document be made more official and that it be provided to NYSDEC with a letter from EPA. Paul immediately contacted me because he and the other members of the group that worked on the document believed that the final version should come from the Region. Since I was the R2 person on the group, it was suggested that the letter come from me. A copy of the letter is also attached with this email. A draft version of the document has been shared with PIADC and I believe that once a formal version is provided to NYSDEC it will also be shared with PIADC.

At the time this started (April or May of 2018), it was considered an informal consultation. I discussed the matter with Eric Mosher and he supported moving ahead.

Considering the recent request from NYSDEC, I thought it best to inform you and find out how best to proceed.

As always, thanks for the help.

Neil